

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods are provided for efficient collection and identification of program information contained in a plurality of multimedia transport streams. Requests for program information are matched against incoming program information as they are received from the incoming multimedia transport streams. The processing of the requests and the collection of program information are done asynchronously and simultaneously. This enables processing of program information from forty or more MPEG transport streams in such a way that their collection rate is reduced from several minutes to less than one second.